

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

ATHENA CONTROLS INC

Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center

Athena Controls Initiates Lean Procedures

Client Profile:

Athena Controls offers temperature control solutions in four major areas of the control loop: panel and sub-panel controllers, SCR power handlers, solid-state relays, and temperature sensors. The company will gladly modify or custom-engineer controllers with options to satisfy special original equipment manufacturers (OEM) requirements. Located in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, the company employs less than 250 people.

Situation:

Athena Controls found that, in order to remain competitive, it needed to trim waste from the business and improve efficiency and productivity. The company contacted the Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center (DVIRC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to help support that initiative.

Solution:

DVIRC met with Athena Controls and developed a training strategy to supplement its initiative. DVIRC introduced the company to the basic principles behind lean manufacturing during a lean overview attended by company employees. After offering a basic overview, DVIRC conducted its Lean 101 workshop for a company-selected cross-functional team. This workshop teaches the specifics of lean manufacturing and raises awareness of how to eliminate waste and add value to the process. After learning the principles of lean manufacturing, Athena employees worked with DVIRC to implement a 5S program. By implementing the five "esses," Athena cleaned and reorganized the shop floor and office space to create a more efficient work environment.

Results:

Realized a 25 percent increase in production.
Reduced lead time by 50 percent.
Decreased necessary floor space by 20 percent.
Reduced work-in-process by 20 percent.

Testimonial:

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